

Holter Hydroelectric Facility,  
3-Car Garage  
(Holter Hydroelectric Facility, Building No. 62)  
1175 feet west of Powerhouse  
Wolf Creek Vicinity  
Lewis and Clark County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-94-H

HAER  
MONT  
25-WOCRE  
1H-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
Rocky Mountain System Support Office  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HOLTER HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,  
3-CAR GARAGE  
(HOLTER HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY, BUILDING NO. 62)

HAER  
MONT  
25-WOCRE  
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HAER No. MT-94-H

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The 3-Car Garage (Building No. 62) is located within the Holter Hydroelectric Facility Historic District near the small community of Wolf Creek in Lewis and Clark County, Montana. It stands approximately 1175 feet west of the Powerhouse, and is one of three historic garages grouped at the southeast end of the operators' camp at the facility.

Quad: Sheep Creek

UTM: Zone 12; Easting 423200; Northing 5204460

Date of Construction: 1930

Present The Montana Power Company  
40 E. Broadway  
Butte, Montana 59701

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Holter Hydroelectric Facility Historic District is significant as one of the most intact hydroelectric generating plants and operators' camps on the Missouri-Madison Project. The 3-Car Garage contributes to the significance of the district as an example a support facility constructed by The Montana Power Company at its isolated hydroelectric power plants. It is also representative of the design concepts of the period.

Historian: Mary McCormick  
Renewable Technologies, Inc.  
Butte, Montana  
January 1998

## II. HISTORY

The 3-Car Garage (Building No. 62) is associated with a fairly massive program by The Montana Power Company to upgrade facilities at its remote hydroelectric plants during the 1920s and 1930s. It was constructed at Holter in 1927 for use by the residents of the operators' camp.<sup>1</sup>

## III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The 3-Car Garage (Building No. 62) is one of three historic support buildings grouped around a common driveway on a small rise at the southeast end of the operators' camp at Holter (Figure 1). It stands on the east side of the drive, while the Mechanic's Garage (MT-94-F) is on the west side of the drive and the 4-Car Garage (MT-94-G) on the south. Rolling foothills rise behind (south) the garage complex.

The 3-Car Garage is a vernacular building form, typically in both design concepts and details of American architecture of the 1920s and 1930s. It has remained virtually unaltered since construction.

The 3-Car Garage is a wood-frame building, measuring 18'4" (east-west) x 30'4" (north-south; Figure 2). It rests on a concrete foundation and is topped by a hipped roof. A paneled-wood door is set between its southwest corner and the 4-Car Garage (MT-94-G).

The exterior walls of the 3-Car Garage are sheathed by drop siding with a 5" exposure. Threc-and-one-half inch cornerboards trim the wall corners, and 10" frieze boards delineate the wall juncture with the roof. A water table at the foundation is created by a slightly-projecting beveled drip above a 10" board apron.

The hipped roof of the garage has a moderate pitch. Board decking covers the truss system. It is sheathed by interlocking asphalt shingles over two layers of wood shingles. The roof eaves are open and have a wide overhang underscored by false rafter tails.

The front (west) side of the building is divided into three bays of garage openings. Each bay holds paired, outward-swinging doors constructed of diagonal tongue-and-groove boards with 1x4 horizontal bracing and 1x4 surrounds. Each door swings on metal strap hinges.

The only windows in the garage are three units on the rear (east) side. These units are spaced so that there is one window at each stall of the garage. Each of them is a wood-sash double-hung window with a six-over-six light configuration. All of them have square-edge wood surrounds with a slightly projecting beveled drip at the hood.

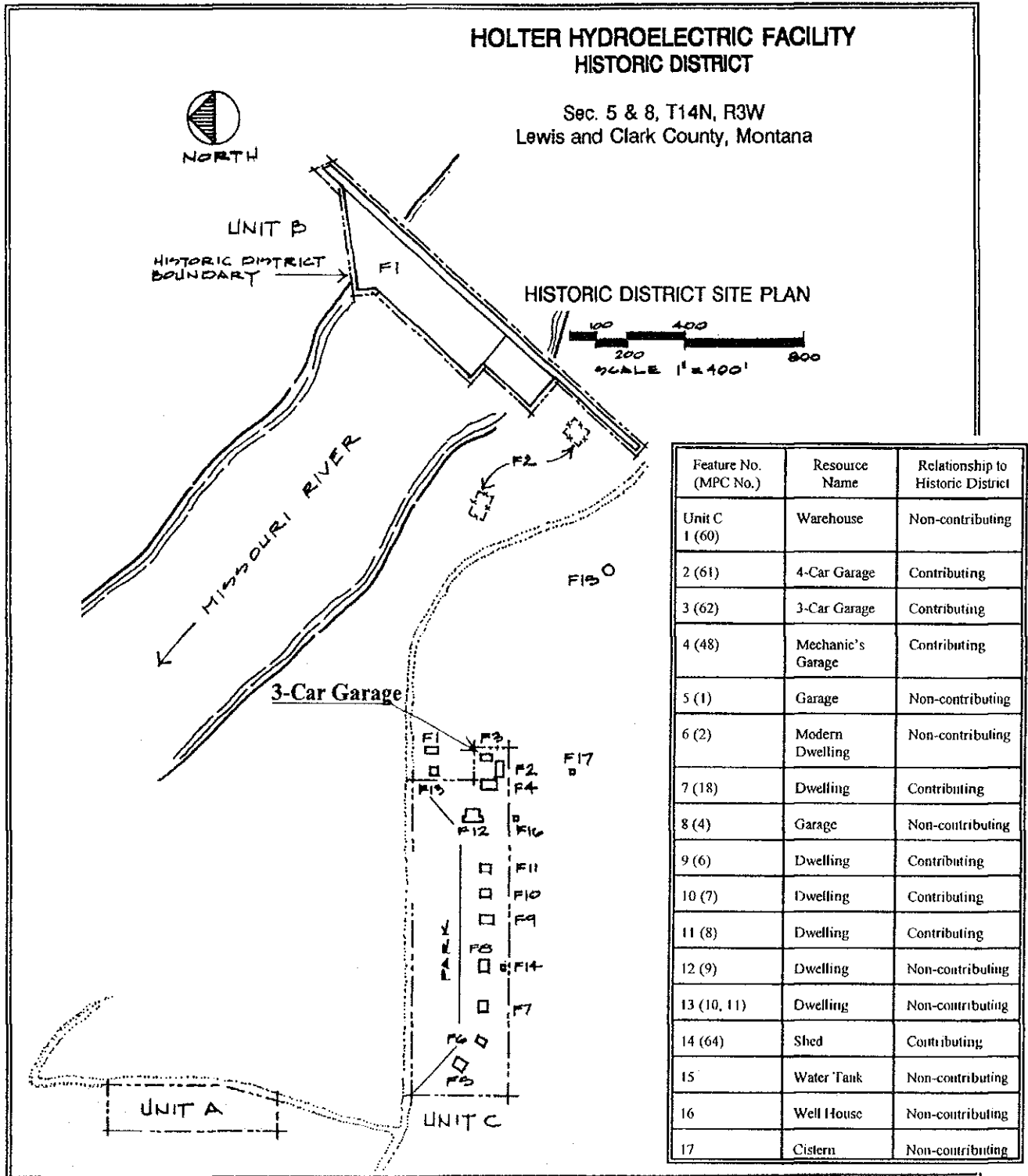
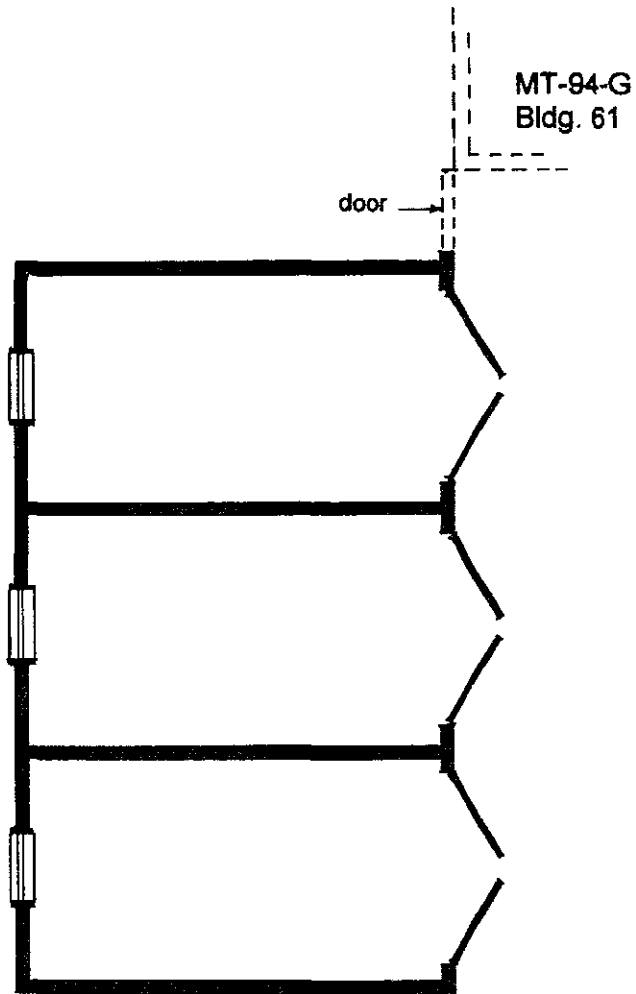
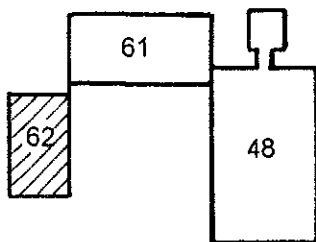


Figure 1. Holter Hydroelectric Facility Historic District.



**FLOOR PLAN**  
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"



Location Map  
no scale

**3-CAR GARAGE  
BUILDING NO. 62**

**HOLTER HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**



Figure 2. 3-Car Garage (Building No. 62) Floor Plan.

Two pieces of cabinetry are attached on the garage's north side. One of these is a narrow, storage cabinet toward the west end of the wall, while the other is a fuse box toward the east end. The former is constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove boards, and holds a set of double doors. Its interior has two empty shelves. The later is a small metal box under a shed-roofed hood.

The interior of the garage is divided into three stalls by two partition walls constructed of two layers of vertical boards with diagonal board bracing (see Figure 2). Floors in the garage remain dirt, the outside walls are unfinished, and the ceiling is covered by compressed fiberboard sheeting. A single electric bulb in a plain porcelain socket hangs from the ceiling in each stall, and positioned in the two interior walls are original, electric space heaters. The northern-most stall of the garage has a concrete-lined oil pit in the floor; this pit has been filled with dirt.

#### IV. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the 4-Car Garage at the Holter Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). The company has sponsored recording the building to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record.

#### V. ENDNOTES

1. Montana Power Company, "Insurance Map of Holter Montana Year 1920," 1921, revised to April 5, 1940, Drawing No. 22568-C, sheet 3 on file at The Montana Power Company, Hydro Engineering, Butte; Montana Power Company, "Reclassification of Electric Plant, January 1, 1937," vol. 1., unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting Butte; Montana Power Company, "Structures and Improvement Report," April 1940, unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting, Butte.

#### VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Montana Power Company, "Insurance Map of Holter Montana, Year 1920." 1921, revised to April 5, 1940. Drawing No. 22568-D, sheet 3 on file at The Montana Power Company, Hydro Engineering, Butte.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Reclassification of Electric Plant, January 1, 1937." Vol. 1. Unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting, Butte.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Structures and Improvement Report." April 1940. Unpublished report on file at The Montana Power Company, Property Accounting, Butte.